

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6276
INFO CNO WASHDC

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E.O. 11652 XGDS-1
TAGS SHUM, ELAB, PINS, PEPR, PGOV, MPOL, AR, US
SUBJECT NAVY HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES AND MASSERA VISIT TO WASHDC

1. HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES -----

JUNTA MEMBER AND NAVY CINC ADMIRAL MASSERA IN AN
UNSCHEDULED MEETING ON JUNE 23 WITH EMBASSY POLOFF
REITERATED CLAIMS REGARDING NAVY'S EFFORTS IT HAS BEEN MAKING
TOWARDS SOLVING HUMAN RIGHTS
PROBLEMS IN ARGENTINA. IN A SURPRISING MOVE, MASSERA
LET EMBOFF BRIEFLY READ WHAT APPEARED TO BE
RECENT EXCHANGE OF SECRET LETTERS
BETWEEN HIMSELF AND PRESIDENT VIDELA. MASSERA'S LETTER,
WHICH HAD A DRAFTING DATE OF MAY 30, URGED THE OUTGOING
JUNTA MEMBERS TO TAKE POSITIVE ACTION ON TWO ISSUES
TERMED DIFFICULT AND CRITICAL TO THE FUTURE DEVELOP-
MENT OF ARGENTINA. MASSERA'S FIRST PROPOSAL WAS THAT
THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES COLLECT, ANALYZE AND
PUBLISH ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION REGARDING PERSONS
WHO HAVE DIED IN CONFRONTATION WITH "ANTI-SUBVERSIVE
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FORCES." SECONDLY, THE MASSERA LETTER PROPOSED THAT
THE JUNTA EXPEDITE THE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THOSE
PERSONS HELD UNDER THE ACTA INSTITUTIONAL AND REGU-
LARIZE THE STATUS OF THESE INDIVIDUALS.

2. PRESIDENT VIDELA'S LETTER OF REPLY SIMPLY
REFERRED TO THE MASSERA LETTER AND SAID THAT THE

ISSUES RAISED SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT JUNTA MEETING. MASSERA EXPLAINED THAT HIS PROPOSALS WERE REJECTED BY THE OTHER JUNTA MEMBERS AT THAT MEETING. MASSERA THEN REFERRED TO A FEBRUARY 1978 AFL-CIO SPANISH LANGUAGE NEWSLETTER WHICH CONTAINED AN ARTICLE ON THE LABOR SITUATION IN ARGENTINA WITH SPECIAL CRITICISM DIRECTED AGAINST HIM. HE COMPLAINED, ALBEIT DIPLOMATICALLY, THAT DESPITE HIS ACTIONS ON BEHALF OF HUMAN RIGHTS, HIS EFFORTS WERE NOT RECOGNIZED.

3. VISIT TO WASHINGTON -----

ADMIRAL MASSERA SAID THAT IN LATE JULY, HE WOULD BE MAKING A FORMAL VISIT TO VENEZUELA AND OBLIQUELY REFERRED TO HIS WISH TO TOUCH BASE IN THE UNITED STATES. (AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING WITH ADMIRAL MASSERA, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NAVY, LUCHETTA, STATED DIRECTLY THAT ADMIRAL MASSERA WOULD LIKE TO VISIT WASHINGTON AFTER HIS VISIT TO VENEZUELA TO MEET WITH SENIOR USG OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON.)

4. MAGGIO LETTER -----

DURING THE CONVERSATION, MASSERA NOTED THAT THE
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NAVY BELIEVED THAT THE MAGGIO LETTER (SEE BUENOS AIRES 3244.) WHICH ALLEGED THAT A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WERE HELD IN A DETENTION FACILITY IN THE NAVY MECHANICAL SCHOOL WAS IN FACT A PRODUCT OF THE ARMY'S FIRST CORPS. MASSERA SHRUGGED HIS SHOULDERS AND SAID WHAT COULD HE DO AGAINST THIS TYPE OF PROPAGANDA. (NOTE: ALTHOUGH EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE MAGGIO LETTER WAS MANUFACTURED AS BLACK PROPAGANDA BY THE ARMY, MASSERA'S BLAMING THE FIRST CORPS WOULD BE HIS BEST CASE EVEN IF THE LETTER WAS THE GENUINE WORK OF MONTONERO AGENTS.)

5. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT MASSERA IS A SHORT-TIMER EXPECTED TO GIVE UP HIS POST ON SEPTEMBER 15, IN VIEW OF HIS MANIPULATIVE STYLE AND HIS POLITICAL AMBITIONS AND IN VIEW OF PRESIDENT VIDELA'S SENSITIVITIES TO MASSERA'S ANTICS, MASSERA'S PROPOSED TRIP TO THE US IS SOMETHING WE WILL WANT TO APPROACH CAUTIOUSLY. AS WE LEARN MORE ABOUT MASSERA'S INTENTIONS AND HOW SERIOUS HIS FEELER IS ABOUT WANTING TO

VISIT THE US, EMBASSY WILL SUBMIT ITS RECOMMENDA-
TIONS.
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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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